

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - SALZBURG SUMMIT: LEBANESE SITUATION.

1. SUMMARY. CONCLUSION OF SALZBURG SUMMIT FRONTPAGED IN ALL BEIRUT PAPERS JUNE 3. HEADLINES IN MOST PAPERS REFLECT PREVAILING VIEW THAT FORD-DADAT EXCHANGES CONTRIBUTED TO PEACE PROCESS; INDEED, SEVERAL SPEAK EXPECTANTLY OF "FORD PEACE PLAN". EDITORIAL COMMENT IS MIXED. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" AND INDEPENDENT "DAILY STAR" VIEW SALZBURG SUMMIT AS POSITIVE STEP IN REACTIVATION OF PEACE PROCESS. INDEPENDENT "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR", WHILE AGREEING THAT CAUTIOUS STEPS TOWARDS PEACE ARE BEING TAKEN, NOTES ABSENCE OF CRUCIAL PALESTINIAN DIMENSION. PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" SUSPENDS JUDGEMENT BUT ALSO EXPRESSED LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN PRESIDENT FORD. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, LEFTIST WEEKLIES "AL-AKHBAR" AND "AL-HURRIYYA" VIOLENTLY ATTACK MAY 27 REMARKS OF "SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL" IN PARIS COMPARING LEBANON IN 1975 TO JORDAN IN 1970 AND CALL THEM EVIDENCE OF U.S. PLANS TO LIQUIDATE PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. HEADLINES ON SALZBURG SUMMIT ARE BASICALLY POSITIVE; INDEED SEVERAL PAPERS SPEAK EXPECTANTLY OF "FORD PEACE PLAN".

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LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR": "AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE ON

ACHIEVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN AND THEN SYRIAN STEPS. AMERICAN PRESIDENT WILL PRESENT PLAN FOR PEACE IN MIDEAST." LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR": "SADAT: PEACE PROCESS WILL BE PROTRACTED." LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR": "EGYPT EXPECTING FORD PLAN TO SOLVE MIDEAST CRISIS." INDEPENDENT "AL-BAYRAQ": "SALZBURG SUMMIT DECISIONS TO BE REVEALED NEXT MONTH. RETURN TO STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY EXPECTED". SADAT: FORD IS SINCERE AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD MAN." ON OTHER HAND, PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" SNIPES: "SHORTEST, FASTEST CONFERENCE IN HISTORY ENDS IN 'NO RESULT', OPEN OR SECRET." PRO-FEDAYEEN "AL-LIWA", FEARING RESULTS, HEADLINES: "PALESTINIAN ANXIETY OVER RESULTS OF SALZBURG SUMMIT."

3. COMMENTING ON SALZBURG SUMMIT, MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, CHIEF EDITOR OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", WRITES: "PRESIDENT SADAT HAS SUCCEEDED IN GETTING U.S. -- SPECIFICALLY, ITS PRESIDENT-- TO MOVE AGAIN AND HAS MADE HIM PLEDGE TO DRAW UP PEACE PLAN. THIS IS MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT, EVEN IF PRESIDENT FORD'S TALKS WITH YITZHAK RABIN LESSEN HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR PROPOSED PLAN AND EVEN IF THESE TALKS RESULT IN PRO-ISRAELI PLAN, GIVEN PRESSURE OF CONGRESS, ESPECIALLY MAJORITY OF SENATORS. STILL, IT WILL NOT MATTER. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT WILL CONTINUE TO BE POSITIVE AND PIN HIS HOPES ON U.S. WITHOUT LIMITING HIS MOVES TO IT. THUS, HE WILL REOPEN SUEZ CANAL AND CONSIDERS REDUCTION OF ISRAELI FORCES AN ENCOURAGING STEP TOWARDS PEACE, EVEN IF ISRAEL HAD TO TAKE IT IN ORDER TO MATCH EGYPT'S POSITIVE SPIRIT FROM SALZBURG TO SUEZ."

4. INDEPENDENT ENGLISH -LANGUAGE "DAILY STAR" WRITES: "PRESIDENTS FORD AND SADAT BRAVELY ATTEMPTED TO ANSWER REPORTERS' QUESTIONS AT END OF THEIR FINAL ROUND OF TALKS, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THEY HAD LITTLE TO SAY IN WAY OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN MIDEAST.... CONFERENCE, HOWEVER, MUST NOT BE WRITTEN OFF AS FAILURE. IT IS NOT FAULT OF EITHER PRESIDENT THAT SPECIFIC AGREEMENT HAS NOT BEEN HAMMERED OUT. TALKS REMAIN VERY USEFUL IN SENSE THAT ANY SETTLEMENT WILL HAVE TO UNCLASSIFIED

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START FROM WHERE TWO PRESIDENTS LEFT OFF...AS PRESIDENTS WERE WINDING UP THEIR TALKS, ISRAELI GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED IT WOULD THIN OUT ITS FORCES IN SINAI ... TIMING ITS ANNOUNCEMENT TO COINCIDE WITH END OF SUMMIT TO STEAL SOME ATTENTION IN BASICALLY THEATRICAL DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD WILL."

5. EDOUARD SAAB, CHIEF EDITOR OF INDEPENDENT FRENCH-LANGUAGE "L'ORIENT-LE JOUR", WRITES: "FORD-SADAT TALKS HAD BEEN HELD TO BE

DECISIVE, INDEED DETERMINATIVE, BUT THEY ENDED UP BEING MERELY "EXPLORATORY".... THERE IS GOING TO BE A RETURN TO STEP-BY-STEP DIPLOMACY, AND GENEVA RENDEZVOUS HAS AGAIN BEEN POSTPONED.... BUT WHAT'S BECOME OF PALESTINE IN ALL THIS....? WHAT IN FACT IS PRESIDENT

SADAT, FOR WHOM THERE IS NO PEACE POSSIBLE IN NEAR EAST WITHOUT PRIOR RECOGNITION OF RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, THINKING ABOUT? PEACE IS INDEED TAKING CAUTIOUS STEPS FORWARD--BUT, UP TO NOW, WITHOUT THE PALESTINIANS."

6. PRO-SOVIET "AS-SHA'B" WRITES: "WE ARE NEITHER OPTIMISTIC NOR PESSIMISTIC. WE ARE AWAITING RESULTS. HOWEVER, OUR READERS MUST PERMIT US TO DECLINE TO TRUST FORD IF FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN BECAUSE HE WILL TRY TO RENEW HIS TERM OF OFFICE THROUGH THE 76 SENATORS WHO SOLD THEMSELVES TO ZIONISM FOR ALMOST NOTHING."

7. COMMENTING ON MAY 27 REMARKS OF "SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL" IN PARIS COMPARING LEBANON IN 1975 TO JORDAN IN 1970, PRO-SOVIET LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY ORGAN "AL-AKHBAR" WRITES: "REFERENCE TO SEPTEMBER 1970 MEANS TWO THINGS -- LIQUIDATION OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE AND DIRECT AMERICAN MILITARY INTERVENTION WITH WHICH NIXON THREATENED SYRIA AT THAT TIME.... KISSINGER SHOULD REALIZE THAT MIDEAST IS NOT, DESPITE EVERYTHING, IDEAL PLACE IN WHICH TO RESTORE REPUTATION OF AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, WHICH RECENTLY COLLAPSED IN SE ASIA.... AMERICAN SECSTATE SHOULD ALSO REALIZE THAT EXPLOSION OF SITUATION IN LEBANON -- WHICH HE IS PREDICTING AND FOR WHICH IT SEEMS HE ALSO HOPES -- WILL NOT SERVE U.S. OBJECTIVES, UNLESS THOSE OBJECTIVES ARE MERELY TO CREATE DISORDER.... REGARDING ARAB STATES, IT CAN BE SAID CLEARLY THAT SYRIA CANNOT STAND IDLY BY IN FACE OF PROVOCATIONS DIRECTLY AFFECTING ITS NATIONAL SECURITY. ON ANOTHER LEVEL, USSR CANNOT PERMIT ANY FOREIGN INTERFERENCE IN AFFAIRS OF ARAB STATES AIMED AT STRIKING ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT, PARTICULARLY PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE."

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8. PFLP ORGAN "AL-HURRIYYA" LIKEWISE WRITES: "BEFORE SUBMITTING TO NEW REALITY IN OUR AREA, WHICH IS CHARACTERIZED BY GROWTH OF PALESTINIAN AND ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT, AMERICANS WILL DEFINITELY TRY TO TURN BACK THE CLOCK IN ORDER TO WEAKEN ARAB LIBERATION FORCES AND RESTRICT THEIR GROWTH. IT IS THUS NOT STRANGE FOR KISSINGER... TO SPEAK OF SERIOUSNESS OF SITUATION IN LEBANON AND TO DRAW COMPARISON BETWEEN IT AND SITUATION IN JORDAN IN 1970."

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